

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIMS

1. (Original) A warning device for attachment to packaging of a product which has an expiration date, the device comprising:

timer means for counting passage of a pre-set period of time, according to a timing program tailored to the product, to the expiration date, and for providing a signal at the expiration date;

an indicator arranged to receive said signal and to provide an indication to differentiate a pre-expiration date period from a post-expiration date period; and

a switch coupled to the packaging and arranged to activate said indicator when a person attempts to use the product.

2. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said timer means includes timer means for counting a factory pre-set period of time from a manufacturing date until the expiration date.

3. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said timer means includes timer means for counting a pre-set period of time from a date of first use until the expiration date.

4. (Original) The device according to claim 3, further comprising a trigger to cause said timer means to start a countdown from a date of first opening the product.

5. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein an indication signal is provided during a post-expiration date period, and no signal is provided during a pre-expiration date period.

6. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein an indication signal is provided during said pre-expiration date period, and no signal is provided during said post-expiration date period.

7. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein one kind of indication signal is provided during said pre-expiration date period, and another kind of signal is provided during said post-expiration date period.

8. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein said timer means and said indicator are electronic means.

9. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein said indicator provides an audible indication.

10. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein said indicator provides a visual indication.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1 ~~either of claims 1 and 2~~, and comprising:

a printed circuit board (PCB) with a chip-on-board having a dedicated timing program for providing signals in accordance with the timing program;

an in-factory activated trigger for activating a timing countdown from date of manufacture;

an automatically activated switch for activating said indicator whenever the product is used; and

an internal power source for powering the device.

15. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 3 ~~either of claims 3 and 4~~, and comprising:

a printed circuit board (PCB) with a chip-on-board having a dedicated timing program for providing signals in accordance with the timing program;

an automatically activated trigger for activating a timing countdown from the product's first use;

an automatically activated switch for activating said indicator each time the product is used; and

an internal power source for powering the device.

16. (Original) A method for providing a warning for a product which has an expiration date, the method comprising:

coupling to the product packaging

timer means for counting passage of a pre-set period of time, according

to a timing program tailored to the product, to the expiration date; and

an indicator for providing an indication to differentiate a pre-expiration date period from a post-expiration date period;

triggering said timer means to automatically begin counting passage of said pre-set period of time, and

automatically activating said indicator each time the product is used to differentiate pre-expiration from post-expiration.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein said pre-set period of time is a factory defined product expiration time from manufacturing date.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein said pre-set period of time is a product expiration time from a first opening of the product packaging.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 16, wherein said pre-set period of time is a factory defined product expiration time from manufacturing date, or a product expiration time from a first opening of the product packaging, whatever happens first.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16~~any of claims 16-19~~, wherein the indicator provides a special signal at a time of a first opening, which acts as tamper evidence.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16~~any of claims 16-19~~, wherein said indicator provides a signal which starts automatically when said product is used, and stops automatically when said product is put away.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 16~~any of claims 16-19~~, wherein said indicator provides a signal which starts automatically when said product is used, and stops automatically after a pre-set signal time.